

# Ningaloo

## Collaboration Cluster

### *Stakeholder engagement for integrated coastal management*

The number and diversity of users of Australia's coastal regions means it is imperative to improve integrated management processes.

#### **Background**

Coastal zone management involves a range of stakeholders including management agencies, industries and community. This means that effective communication and integrated decision-making processes are highly important.

This project is working to map and understand the current decision-making networks for the Ningaloo region and identify key communication functions that need to be maintained regardless of government and other organisational changes.

Currently there is no knowledge on how to match decision-making systems with large integrated research programs hence, this project will enable visualisation of how this can be done.

#### **Anticipated outcomes**

The project results will outline what information and key communication processes are required for integrated coastal management to be improved and maintained for the long term.

To achieve the intended outcome participants were invited to draw a mental map of how they perceived their role contributed to the sustainable management of the Ningaloo Marine Park (NMP). These maps illustrated the relationships between themselves and the organisations and groups which they identify as central to their role.

Learnings from this provide an understanding of how different stakeholder groups engage, including the role of scientists and researchers. The research

results aim to improve communication and management of large research programs by emphasising the importance of sound relationships within and between research agencies and regional communities.



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